

1 H.125

2 An act relating to boards and commissions

3 The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill as follows:

4 First: In Sec. 2a, government accountability; Summer Government  
5 Accountability Committee; report, by striking out subsection (c) in its entirety  
6 and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (c) to read as follows:

7 (c) Powers and duties. The Summer Government Accountability  
8 Committee shall consider the issue of accountability in the Legislative Branch,  
9 including the following:

10 (1) ways to ensure that the Legislative Branch is accountable to the  
11 people of Vermont by creating new processes and metrics by which to measure  
12 accountability;

13 (2) ways to ensure equity in pay across commissions, boards, and joint  
14 legislative committees based on the nature of the service and required skill  
15 level;

16 (3) ways to ensure equitable participation on boards and commissions  
17 and in any public engagement process mandated by the State or General  
18 Assembly by providing appropriate compensation and material support; and

19 (4) codifying mechanisms for controlling and restraining the increasing  
20 number of commissions, boards, and joint legislative committees.

21 Second: By striking out Sec. 4, Vermont Pension Investment Commission,

1 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new Sec. 4 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 4. 3 V.S.A. § 522 is amended to read:

3 § 522. VERMONT PENSION INVESTMENT COMMISSION

4 \* \* \*

5 (h) Compensation and reimbursements. Members and alternates of the  
6 Commission who are not public employees shall be entitled to per diem  
7 compensation as ~~set forth~~ permitted in 32 V.S.A. § 1010 and reimbursement  
8 for all necessary expenses that they may incur through service on the  
9 Commission from the funds of the retirement systems. The Chair of the  
10 Commission may be compensated from the funds at a level ~~not to exceed one-~~  
11 ~~third of the salary of the State Treasurer,~~ as ~~determined~~ recommended by the  
12 other members of the Commission and approved through the State budget  
13 process.

14 (i) Assistance and expenses.

15 (1) ~~The Commission shall have the administrative and technical support~~  
16 ~~of the Office of the State Treasurer.~~

17 ~~(2)~~ The Commission may collect proportionally from the funds of the  
18 three retirement systems and any individual municipalities that have been  
19 allowed to invest their retirement funds pursuant to subsection 523(a) of this  
20 title, any expenses incurred that are associated with carrying out its duties, and  
21 any expenses incurred by the Treasurer's office in support of the Commission.

1       ~~(3)~~(2) The Attorney General shall serve as legal advisor to the  
2 Commission.

3       Third: By adding a reader assistance heading and a new section to be Sec.  
4 4a to read as follows:

5                       \* \* \* Commission on Women Quorum \* \* \*

6 Sec. 4a. 3 V.S.A. § 5025 is amended to read:

7 § 5025. THE COMMISSION ON WOMEN

8   \* \* \*

9       (e) ~~Nine members~~ A majority of the currently appointed members of the  
10 Commission shall constitute a quorum ~~of the Commission~~. Once a quorum has  
11 been established, the vote of a majority of the members present at the time of  
12 the vote shall be an act of the Commission.

13   \* \* \*

14       Fourth: By adding a reader assistance heading and two new sections to be  
15 Secs. 132a and 132b to read as follows:

16                       \* \* \* Regional Emergency Management Committees Quorum \* \* \*

17 Sec. 132a. 20 V.S.A. § 6 is amended to read:

18 § 6. LOCAL ORGANIZATION FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

19   \* \* \*

20       (d) Regional emergency management committees shall be established by  
21 the Division of Emergency Management.

1 \* \* \*

2 (3) A regional emergency management committee shall consist of  
3 voting and nonvoting members.

4 \* \* \*

5 (C) Meeting quorum requirement. A regional emergency  
6 management committee may vote annually, at the committee's final meeting of  
7 the calendar year, to modify its quorum requirement for meetings in the  
8 subsequent year; provided, however, that the quorum shall be not fewer than  
9 20 percent of voting members.

10 \* \* \*

11 Sec. 132b. INTERIM QUORUM

12 Notwithstanding 20 V.S.A. § 6(d)(3)(C), until December 31, 2023:

13 (1) not fewer than five voting members of a regional emergency  
14 management committee shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of a meeting;  
15 and

16 (2) a regional emergency management committee may vote at any time  
17 to modify its quorum requirement for meetings in 2024; provided, however,  
18 that the quorum shall be not fewer than 20 percent of voting members.

19 Fifth: By adding a reader assistance heading and one new section to be Sec.  
20 139a to read as follows:

1           \* \* \* State Ethics Commission Report on Municipal Ethics \* \* \*

2   Sec. 139a. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL ETHICS

3       On or before January 15, 2024, the State Ethics Commission shall report to  
4   the House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs and the  
5   Senate Committee on Government Operations with its recommendations for  
6   creating a framework for municipal ethics in Vermont. The report shall  
7   include a summary of the issues related to creating a framework for municipal  
8   ethics in Vermont and a summary of any relevant input received by the  
9   Commission in drafting the report. The report shall include specific  
10   recommendations on how to best provide cities and towns with informational  
11   resources about basic ethics practices. In drafting the report, the Commission  
12   may consult with any person it deems necessary to conduct a full and complete  
13   analysis of the issue of municipal ethics, including the Vermont League of  
14   Cities and Towns and the Office of the Secretary of State.